

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 21, 1997      LB 118

take your seats.      We're about to begin Final Reading.  
Mr. Clerk, LB 118.

CLERK:      Mr. President, Senator Bromm would move to return the bill for purposes of striking the enacting clause. (FA105 appears on page 1151 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM:      Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I won't belabor this very long, and I'll say right up front that I'm not going to try to stop Senator Janssen's bill and I will wind up voting for the bill, but I think it may be the only opportunity to speak a little bit to the structure of the lottery fund, the Excellence in Education Fund, as we have come to know it the last few years here in Nebraska. What I have learned after introducing a bill which would have distributed this money on a per pupil basis is that there is a fairly strong feeling, at least in the executive branch and I'm sure there is with some on this floor, that the original legislation that was adopted in conjunction with the Lottery Fund Act should never be changed. That it should remain as is regardless of whether we feel it's the most effective use of the money or not. I brought legislation to try to change the distribution for two or three reasons. First and foremost, I was receiving a message from people who had received some grants and people who were somewhat involved in the grant-awarding process that it seems, as the years go along, that people are stretching for ideas and ways to use the money. That many of the applications for grants that are submitted are not well-founded in terms of really being an effort to generate a new idea that might be catching on throughout the state after it's tried on a trial basis in a school. In other words, we're running out of ways to try to get this money. I guess, secondly, we are at a time in education where every dollar counts. Every dollar counts. It might only be, I think, if you did it on a per pupil basis, something like 50 dollars a student or thereabouts. But that's 50 dollars a student. That...a lot of schools would really appreciate having two or three years down the road. That's not to say that it should be just distributed in shotgun fashion. I certainly feel that there should be designated objectives for the use of the fund, such as programs to help improve teaching skills, such as helping